

Sisters' S. C. E.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

At my last writing I was at Middle Branch, Ohio. I spent Saturday and Sunday with them and though we did something for the S. S. C. E., the results were not so gratifying as we could have wished. Only ten of the sisters were willing to take hold of the work. Not one brother was willing to join their ranks. We hope however that the ten sisters will prove such earnest Endeavorers, that others will soon enlist in the service with them. From Middle Branch, I went to Georgetown, and there found an enthusiastic, self-sacrificing church; and without much effort succeeded in organizing a society of about twenty-four members. We have no fears but that they will make the work a success. The next point was the Fair Haven church. There they had once organized an S. S. C. E., and though not very enthusiastic, it had never disbanded. A few faithful ones were still paying their monthly dues, but the society was contributing nothing to the national organization. They are not selfish however, and after talking to them of the noble purposes of the Endeavor, and of the great needs of the mission cause and the Theological chair of Ashland University, we succeeded in reorganizing the society under the present S. S. C. E. constitution, and in adding thirteen new members to the roll.

From Fair Haven I was taken on Saturday by private conveyance to the Homer church. There they have no society of any kind, and though I succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of some of the members, in favor of the S. S. C. E., I did not effect an organization. They had once had an Aid Society, and allowing a wrong spirit to creep into it, there had been some unpleasant experiences. Because of this, the pastor said of the S. S. C. E.: "*We don't want any*"—consequently they do not have any. Might we not as consistently say that because there are sometimes unpleasant differences in the church, we will do away with church organizations? There are good people in the Homer church, and we earnestly hope they will reconsider their decision, and yet organize and put themselves in touch with their neighbor churches in this work.

My next stop was at Ashland, and there I spent two nights and a day very pleasantly. In company with Sister Gnagey, I visited the Publishing House and saw some of this week's EVANGELISTS printed. Sister Keim's many duties in the Boarding Hall, prevented our having as much

time to talk over plans and prospects for the S. S. C. E. as we would have liked. She showed me the list of spring remittances from the societies, then ready for publication, and I was highly gratified to see that every new society organized previous to April 1, had remitted. Thank you, dear Sisters for this, and may God help you ever to be faithful and prompt to perform every duty. We regret however that about eight of the older societies have not yet remitted. Will you not do so, without further delay? We were very anxious to have every society reported, this Spring, and we are disappointed that it will not be so. Though you will be too late for the report, will you not send in your remittance anyhow? Oh, if you felt the need and importance of this as they feel it at Ashland, I am sure you would not delay another day. The successful, earnest work done in the Theological Department of the University, during the year, and the great need of sustaining and continuing that department, has filled me with fresh enthusiasm and earnestness for the S. S. C. E., and I go forth with renewed energy, and determination to do all I can for the support of the Theological chair. Let us *work and give*, dear sisters, and the results will be blessed to ourselves and others. Much of the work that we do in this world will count for nothing in a few years, but the work that we do for the S. S. C. E. will live on and on, perhaps long after we are forgotten. The money we spend for ribbons and laces, will afford us pleasure but for a little while, but that which we give for Christ's cause will purchase for us *eternal* blessings, and the sacrifices we make in order to give, will but enlarge and beautify our nobler natures.

From Ashland I went to North Liberty. There they have had a prosperous society, to which we succeeded in adding fifteen new members. We spent two nights with them, preaching to large, attentive congregations, and receiving from them liberal collections for the S. S. C. E. May they reap abundant blessings in return, both temporal and spiritual.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

P. S.—Correspondents may address me either at Mapleville, Md., or South Bend, Indiana.

May 24.

FROM JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Our society is growing both in interest and number. Our last program was an evening of Tableaux, which was very interesting and well rendered. The society is under obligations to the Moxham friends, Miss Goughnour and Mrs. Stahl,

for the service rendered. Our next is a monthly business meeting of the society.

The following are clippings from the May number of "The Endeavor" which was read before the society. Mr. A. Trent, the editor, fills its columns with rich and spicy news which are always welcome:

"Since our last issue this society has been honored by a visit from the National president of the S. S. C. E., Miss Laura Grossnickle. Miss Grossnickle is certainly a live earnest Christian Endeavor worker, and the delegates to the National Convention are to be congratulated upon their selection of a lady so amply qualified, and well fitted for the national head of the organization. If her instructions and earnest christian example are followed by the officers of the different societies throughout the country, there can be no doubt as to the amount of good that may be accomplished by the young people of the church. Miss Grossnickle is doing a good and noble work for the Master. Her talent, her accomplishments and christian bearing, linked with that kindly social manner she manifests, will carry comfort, good cheer and courage to many a heart as she travels through the land."

Before another issue of "The Endeavor" one of our most useful members will have left the city. We refer to Miss Sterling, chairman of our Program committee. Her leaving is an immeasurable loss to us. In her departure she has the assurance of carrying with her, the highest respect and kindest wishes for her welfare, from every member of this society. We resign ourselves to this, only because of the sincere hope, that when the summer is past and the swallows homeward fly, she too will return to us again, and occupy her place of usefulness again.

THE ROUGH CROSS.

This I saw in my dream: There was an Eastern village in which a carpenter's shop stood. A boy was working at a bench when a child came in.

"Gentle Jesus," he said, "this cross you gave me the other day is made of very rough wood. I am proud to carry it, but the splinters do run into my hands and tear them badly. Will you not plane it for me? It will not take you long."

But the gentle Jesus only sighed, and I thought I heard him say: "Many will be proud to carry my cross until they feel its roughness, then they will cast it aside."

"God is near. Nearer than the air we breathe, and nearer than the light that pours down upon us from the sun. So near that he is easily and quickly found by those who seek Him with a contrite, willing and obedient heart."